

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): ~~The multi-stage filter according to claim 9~~ A multi-stage filter comprising an upstream prefilter element and a downstream main filter element, one of said elements including nanofibers, wherein said downstream main filter element has said nanofibers, and wherein said nanofibers have: a) a fiber diameter in the range 40 to 800 nm
5 (nanometers); and b) a basis weight in the range 0.02 to 1.0 g/m² (grams per square meter).

Claim 14 (currently amended): The multi-stage filter according to claim ~~9~~ 13 wherein:

said main filter element comprises pleated filter media having fibers selected from the group consisting of cellulose fibers and synthetic fibers, and having said nanofibers, said nanofibers having a fiber diameter in the range 40 to 800 nm (nanometers) and a basis
5 weight in the range 0.02 to 1.0 g/m² (grams per square meter), said pleated filter media having a plurality of pleats extending between first and second sets of pleat tips, said pleats extending generally parallel to a flow direction of fluid through said filter and spaced from each other along a spacing direction transverse to said flow direction and defining a transverse gap therebetween through which fluid flows, such that fluid flows along said flow direction between
10 pleat tips of said first set and then transversely through said pleats and then along said flow direction between said pleat tips of said second set;

said prefilter element comprises a sheet of filter material having a thickness dimension between oppositely facing first and second sides for filtering particles in fluid flow therethrough along said flow direction perpendicular to said sheet and said first and second sides
15 and parallel to said thickness dimension, said second side being adjacent said main filter element, said sheet being formed by an internal pleated subsheet comprising a plurality of fibers and having a plurality of pleats extending between first and second sets of pleat tips, said pleats of said subsheet extending parallel to said flow direction, said first set of pleat tips of said

20 subsheet providing said first side of said sheet, said second set of pleat tips of said subsheet
providing said second side of said sheet, said pleats of said subsheet engaging each other and
packed sufficiently tightly against each other such that fluid flows along said flow direction
through said pleats of said subsheet in parallel with said pleats, rather than between said pleats
of said subsheet and then transversely therethrough, said subsheet having a pre-pleated planar
condition with said fibers extending dominantly parallel thereto and dominantly unidirectionally
25 parallel to each other, said subsheet having a pleated condition forming said sheet wherein said
fibers extend along said pleats of said subsheet substantially parallel to said flow direction, and
said fibers extend around said pleat tips of said subsheet substantially parallel to each respective
side of said sheet and substantially perpendicular to said flow direction.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The multi-stage filter according to claim ~~9~~ 13 wherein said
main filter element comprises three sets of fibers, namely a first set comprising said nanofibers,
and second and third sets of tribologically different fibers providing a triboelectric effect.

Claim 16 (original): The multi-stage filter according to claim 15 wherein said main filter
element comprises two sheets comprising a pleated first sheet having fibers selected from the
group consisting of cellulose fibers and synthetic fibers, and having said nanofibers, and a
second sheet having said second and third sets of tribologically different fibers.

Claim 17 (original): The multi-stage filter according to claim 16 wherein said first sheet is
between said pre-filter element and said second sheet.

Claim 18 (original): The multi-stage filter according to claim 16 wherein said first sheet
comprises pleated first and second subsheets, said first subsheet having said fibers selected from
said group consisting of cellulose fibers and synthetic fibers, said second subsheet having said
nanofibers.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The multi-stage filter according to claim-~~9~~ 13 comprising first and second sets of said nanofibers, said first and second sets having tribologically different nanofibers providing a triboelectric effect.

5 Claim 20 (currently amended): The multi-stage filter according to claim-~~9~~ 13 wherein said main filter element comprises four sets of fibers, namely a first set comprising said nanofibers, second and third sets of tribologically different fibers providing a triboelectric effect, and a fourth set of fibers selected from the group consisting of cellulose fibers and synthetic fibers and having a fiber diameter substantially greater than said nanofibers.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The multi-stage filter according to claim-~~12~~ 13 wherein said main filter element comprises a pleated sheet comprising pleated first and second subsheets, said pleated second subsheet having said nanofibers.

Claim 22 (original): The multi-stage filter according to claim 21 wherein said pleated second subsheet is downstream of said pleated first subsheet.

Claim 23 (original): The multi-stage filter according to claim 21 wherein said pleated second subsheet is upstream of said pleated first subsheet.

Claim 24 (original): The multi-stage filter according to claim 21 wherein said pleated first subsheet has fibers selected from the group consisting of cellulose fibers and synthetic fibers having a fiber diameter substantially greater than said nanofibers.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The multi-stage filter according to claim-~~12~~ 13 wherein said main filter element is a planar panel filter element lying in a plane for filtering particles in fluid flowing therethrough transversely to said plane.

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Claim 26 (currently amended): The multi-stage filter according to claim ~~12~~ 13 wherein said main filter element is an annular member having a hollow interior extending along an axis for filtering particles in fluid flowing therethrough radially relative to said axis.

Claims 27-35 (canceled)